

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

9/18/2009

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CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEAN

Our regular Friday Bulletin creator is home sick with the flu, so it seemed appropriate to include some tips and resources to help you and your patrons avoid a similar fate. Some great, free resources are available from government agencies and publishers alike:

- Influenza in Alaska, including seasonal flu, swine flu (H1N1), and bird flu (H5N1) <http://www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov/>
- One-stop influenza resources from federal agencies <http://www.flu.gov>
- Current flu update, with statistics and maps, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>
- Free, evidence-based, influenza articles and other resources from Ebsco (mentioned in last week's Friday Bulletin) <http://www.ebscohost.com/flu/>
- Widget to access free medical articles and other resources on influenza from Gale, which you can place directly on your website <http://www.gale.cengage.com/flu/>

We also got some practical tips from Sue Webb at the Division of Public Health.

- **Get fresh air.** If you have windows that open at home or work, put on an extra sweater and open them to air out the bad germs.
- Keep from re-infecting yourself and family members by **running your toothbrushes through the dishwasher.** Don't have a dishwasher? Try putting them in the microwave for 10 seconds. Watch them, stop the microwave if they start to melt, and of course, let them cool before picking them up.
- When possible, **prop open doors** so people don't need to touch the handles.
- **Use tissues to touch anything that might be contaminated.** These can be great for opening doors, straightening shelves, etc. Try flushing the toilet with a foot or elbow, and then using a paper towel to open the restroom door.
- **Clean everywhere!** In your office, be especially conscientious about cleaning your phone, keyboard, mouse and any shared workspaces.
- **Don't share food.** Put away those bowls of gorp or goldfish crackers for now. Rummaging around in shared food containers is a good way to spread germs – unless everybody uses a serving spoon.

The official word is that if you have the flu, you are contagious for at least 24 hours after your temperature is back to normal without the aid of medicine. In addition, you may be contagious as long as you're still coughing, even without a fever.

It's easy for all this talk of flu to get scary. For most, though, it's seems to be fairly mild, so let's all be careful, but try not to worry too much.

MUSEUMS ALASKA & ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEET IN UNALASKA

Covering everything from wildlife in the Aleutians to collections care to e-learning for museum professionals, and much more, Museums Alaska and the Alaska Historical Society are currently meeting in Unalaska in conjunction with the Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board (ASHRAB).

Museums Alaska provides the top ten reasons to visit Unalaska at their conference website: <http://www.museumsalaska.org/conferences/index.htm>. My favorite is bear-free berrypicking!

JOIN COLLEAGUES IN "BREAKING NEW TRAILS" AT THE 2010 AKLA CONFERENCE

The Alaska Library Association annual onference is always great fun, and this year you'll get a chance to see the Iditarod too! The paid speakers – including Sherman Alexie! – have been arranged, but the 2010 Conference Program Committee still needs you.

- The program form for the AKLA 2010 – Anchorage Conference – is ready and open for your submissions.
- You'll find the link to the form on the following website:
<http://www.akla.org/anchorage2010/>
- In the middle of the page, go to... I want to:
 - Submit a program proposal
- The deadline for submitting programs is Friday, Sept 25.

Please help us get the word out by putting this announcement on other lists and...by offering a program yourself. Presenting at conference is a comfortable and fun way to share what you've learned with your colleagues. After all, who is more likely to have pertinent information and skills for Alaskan libraries than you?!

THE WEB'S DOWN IN JUNEAU

Some State of Alaska online services will be interrupted by a scheduled equipment upgrade over the next two Sundays. There was also an outage last Sunday as part of this process. The outages will occur between 6 am and 2 pm. What does this mean for you? Some of the services that may be down include:

- Phone service, including voice mail, for Libraries, Archives and Museums staff and other State employees in Juneau;

- Webpages, including the main State of Alaska website and all websites of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums;
- Additional services may also be affected.

NEW EQUIPMENT MEANS NEW SERVICE AT THE STATE ARCHIVES

The State Archives' Central Microfilming Service has some nifty new equipment that is allowing them to update and expand their services. They scan original source documents, then laser-write them to microfilm, without the traditional photography step.

With their electronic data capture, they can accept paper documents, previously scanned files or born-digital material, and provide in return preservation microfilm and CDs or DVDs for easy access. This description may sound dry, but I have to say that having seen it in person, this is really cool equipment that is a great tool for preservation and access.

This service is available to all, including State agencies, the University of Alaska, local community government and others, for their preservation and access needs. For more information and fees, contact Stan Hubbard at 907-465-2274.

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